

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic camera comprising:  
an imaging element that converts an optical image that  
passes through a photographing lens into a digital image by  
operating a release switch to an ON state;  
a display device capable of displaying said digital  
image;  
a pen-type designator capable of designating an  
arbitrary position on a display screen of said display  
device;  
a pen position detecting device that detects the  
position designated by said pen-type designator;  
a pen trail display controller that causes said  
display device to display a movement trail of the detected  
designated position; and  
a pen detection controller that inhibits said imaging  
element from forming an image of a next frame and allows  
said pen position detecting device to detect said  
designated position and allows said pen trail display  
controller to control display of said movement trail, while  
said release switch is kept operated to the ON state after  
the imaging element terminates forming an image of one  
frame, said pen detection controller enabling said imaging  
element to effect forming an image of the next frame when

said release switch is thereafter operated to an OFF state.

2. An electronic camera according to claim 1,  
wherein

said pen trail display controller causes said display device to display said movement trail being superposed on the digital image when allowed by said pen detection controller.

3. An electronic camera according to claim 2, further comprising:

a recording device capable of recording respective data corresponding to said digital image and said movement trail, said recording device recording said respective data corresponding to the digital image and the movement trail that are superposed on each other and displayed in said display device, together with additional information indicating that the data corresponding to the digital image are correlated with the data corresponding to the movement trail.

4. An electronic camera comprising:

an imaging element that forms an image of an object;  
a display device that displays said formed image;  
a memory that stores said image formed by said imaging

element; and

a designating device that designates arbitrary positions on a display screen of said display device.

5. An electronic camera according to claim 4,  
wherein

said designating device comprises a touch sensor that is superposed on said display screen of said display device and allows said display screen to be seen through the touch sensor.

6. An electronic camera according to claim 4,  
wherein

said display device displays indications of positions designated by said designating device on corresponding portions on the display screen of said display device.

7. An electronic camera according to claim 4,  
wherein

said display device displays on said display screen control operation indications representing predetermined control operations for said camera,

said electronic camera further comprising a control device that, when at least one of positions of said control operation indications is designated by said designating

device, controls said camera to perform corresponding one of said control operations.

8. An electronic camera according to claim 4, further comprising

a shutter release button that can be half pressed and fully pressed, and wherein

said display device starts displaying said image of said object that is formed by said imaging element when said shutter release button is half pressed.

9. An electronic camera according to claim 5, wherein

said touch sensor extends in a region that is larger than said display screen.

10. An electronic camera according to claim 6, wherein

said indications of said designated positions are displayed in a form of a trail of a designated position when said designated positions are successively designated by said designating device.

11. An electronic camera according to claim 6, wherein

said display device is able to display said indications of said designated positions so as to be superposed on said image when said image is being displayed on said display screen.

12. An electronic camera according to claim 8, further comprising

a control device that fixes said image that is being formed by said imaging element at a point of time when said shutter release button is fully pressed, and wherein

said display device displays said fixed image until said shutter release button is released after said shutter release button is fully pressed.

13. An electronic camera according to claim 9, wherein

control operation indications representing predetermined control operations of said camera are prepared in said region in which said touch sensor extends, said camera further comprising

a control device that, when at least one of positions of said control operation indications is designated by said touch sensor, controls said camera to perform corresponding one of said predetermined control operations.

14. An electronic camera according to claim 11,  
wherein

    said memory further stores said indications of said  
    designated positions, and information that correlates said  
    indications of said designated positions with said image.

15. An electronic camera according to claim 13,  
wherein

    said control operation indications are disposed on a  
    side of a lower surface of said touch sensor, and said  
    region in which said touch sensor extends allows said  
    control operation indications to be seen through said  
    region.

16. An electronic camera according to claim 14,  
wherein

    said electronic camera has a recording mode in which  
    said image, said indications of said designated positions  
    and said correlating information are stored in said memory,  
    and a reproduction mode in which said image and said  
    indications of said designated positions are retrieved from  
    said memory and reproduced on said display device, said  
    electronic camera further comprising

    a control device that utilizes a combination of  
    display by said display device and designation by said

designating device so as to enable switching between said recording mode and said reproduction mode.

17. An electronic camera according to claim 14,  
wherein

    said electronic camera has a designated position display/recording mode which permits display of said indications of said positions designated by said designating device and in which said indications of said designated positions are stored in said memory, and a photographing record mode which permits forming an image by said imaging element and permits display of said indications of said positions designated by said designating device and in which said image, said indications of said designated positions and said correlating information are stored together, said electronic camera further comprising

    a control device that switches said camera to said designated position display/recording mode when a predetermined position is designated by said designating device.

18. An electronic camera according to claim 16,  
wherein

    said control device initially establishes said

recording mode when a power supply of said electronic camera is turned on.